

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 3 of 42 as follows:

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,691,928 and 5,935,244 describe methods of securing the use of portable computers by allowing them to be fully functional only when they are connected to a detachable device. In U.S. Patent No. 5,691,928, the detachable device is a security module removably coupled to the main chassis of the portable computer and containing circuitry for enabling decryption of encrypted data stored within the portable computer and for coupling the source of electrical power to the data processing and volatile storage circuitry only with the security module coupled to the main chassis of the portable computer. In U.S. Patent No. 5,935,244, the detachable device is an input/output (I/O) device that functions as a conventional computer interface when docked to the portable computer. Problems with these methods arise from the fact that the rightful user of the portable computer often has a need to use the full features of his system in a remote location. If he carries a removable device, such as the security module along with the computer, there is a risk that the removable device may become lost or stolen with the computer. If he leaves the removable device behind in his office, he will not be able to use important features of his portable computer while he is gone. Thus, what is needed is a means for periodically verifying that the rightful user is in possession of the portable computer before certain features can be enabled, with such verification being possible whether the portable computer is in its home office or in a remote location, and with such verification not depending on a removable module that can be stolen with the portable computer.